

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed on December 16, 2004, Applicants hereby provisionally elect the species depicted by Figure 9H for initial examination in the present application. New claims 52 and 74 are generic to all species.

Examiner Hammond is thanked for the courtesies extended to applicants' representative and inventor John Williams during the personal interview conducted January 11, 2005. As discussed during the interview, a focus of the instant application is the embodiment depicted in Figure 9 of the application. This Figure shows how an electrical circuit 145 is integrally formed with a plurality of contact elements 152 overlying the electrical circuit 145. Paragraph [0073] of the specification, in particular, describes this embodiment.

Thus, as explained, the focus of the present application is not so much the precise shape of a given contact element, but the fact that the contact element is integrally formed and connected with an electrical circuit on, or embedded in, the substrate.

Each of the new independent claims has been drafted to include the subject matter of original claim 38, which recited that an electrical circuit is connected to at least one of the contact elements.

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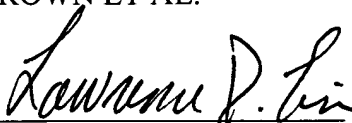
Applicants look forward to examination on the merits. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: None

LDE/dkp

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